



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glacier National Park
(A part of Waterton-Glacier
International Peace Park)

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Glacier National Park News Release

May 17, 2002
For Immediate Release
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NEWS02-23

Glacier National Park Weekend Update

Two Medicine Road and Several Campgrounds Open May 17

WEST GLACIER, MONT. -- On the heels of Thursday's West Side "Show Me" Day wherein a record 728 visitors took advantage of the opportunity to watch Glacier National Park's road crew clearing snow, an avalanche occurred later in the day in the immediate vicinity of "Show Me" Day snow clearing operations. Upon hitting the road surface at Haystack Creek, crew members estimate the snow spread out and covered approximately 100 yards of the Going-to-the-Sun Road surface before continuing to run almost to the lower section of the Going-to-the-Sun Road below Haystack Creek. The crew estimates only half of the snowpack in the Haystack Creek avalanche zone slid on Thursday.

Acting assistant superintendent John Kilpatrick stated, "Show Me' Day was a huge success. We are delighted that so many people joined us for this popular park event. That said, this avalanche is a stark reminder of the hazardous conditions and potential dangers faced by the plowing crew as they strive to clear and open the entire Going-to-the-Sun Road each spring."

Elsewhere in Glacier National Park, the entire Two Medicine Road opened for vehicle traffic Friday morning, May 17. Because of snow and reduced visibility, motorists are urged to exercise extreme caution when driving the road. No facilities are open in Two Medicine Valley at this time.

The road into Many Glacier Valley and the East Side Going-to-the-Sun Road between St. Mary and Rising Sun are open and weather permitting, will remain open. Bicyclists and hikers can venture three miles beyond Rising Sun. Adjacent to Glacier National Park, between Two Medicine Valley and St. Mary, Highway 49 (Looking Glass Highway) also opened this week.

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Vehicle access on the West Side of the Going-to-the-Sun Road continues to be restricted at Avalanche Creek, however, weekend hikers and bicyclists may travel to Bird Woman Falls Overlook, approximately ten miles beyond Avalanche Creek.

The Inside North Fork Road is now open from Polebridge Ranger Station north to Kintla Lake as well as into Bowman Lake and south to Logging Creek. Both Bowman and Kintla Lake Campgrounds are now open for the season.

Non-motorized use is welcome on other park roads that are otherwise closed to motor vehicles; users are reminded to be very alert for potential avalanche hazards, ice, and rockfall as well as bears and other wildlife. Bicyclists and hikers are asked to stay on the right side of the roadway. Visitors are also reminded that when sections of park roads are closed to motorized vehicle use, and are utilized as trails, these roadways are closed to all pets.

Three park campgrounds open for the season May 17, including Bowman and Kintla Lake Campgrounds in the park's North Fork area and Sprague Creek Campground on the Going-to-the-Sun Road. Camping within the park is also available at Apgar and St. Mary Campgrounds; however, St. Mary Campground is available for primitive camping only (no running water) until the campground opens for the season Friday, May 24.

Visitor services and facilities are open in Apgar Village, including the Apgar Visitor Center which is currently open daily from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Additional services and facilities throughout the park will continue to open in coming weeks.

Current road conditions are available on the park's web site at www.nps.gov/glac/whatsnew/gttsroad.htm General park information is available at www.nps.gov/glac/home.htm or by calling park headquarters at 406-888-7800.

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